



Contemporary Ukrainian Literature

1 How much do you know about literature? Take the test to find out! Decide if the name refers to a male or a female. Then, decide if that's the writer's real name or a pseudonym. Write the writer's real name, if you know it.

	Writer	M/F	Real/ Pseudonym
1	Marko Vovchok		
2	Lesia Ukrainka		
3	Marie-Henri Beyle		
4	Janka Kupala		
5	Maks Fry		
6	George Eliot		
7	Robert Galbraith		
8	Erich Maria Remarque		
9	George Sand		
10	Liuko Dashvar		

Reading

2 What would you like to know about modern Ukrainian literature? Write down three questions. Read the text to see if your questions are answered.

CHECK THESE WORDS

pseudonym, literary, independence, identity, censorship, contemporary, work, movement, genre, theme, recognition, deserve

A New Period in Ukrainian Writing



Although Ukraine has a long and rich literary history, it is only since its independence in 1991 that Ukrainian literature has truly come into its own and found its identity. After the censorship that limited the ways writers expressed themselves ended, Ukrainian literature has developed successfully as new writers found their own voices. Such writers include Oksana Zabuzhko, Yurii Andrukhovych, Liuko Dashvar, Mariia Matios and several others. A lot of contemporary Ukrainian writers have had their works translated into several languages so that people from other countries can enjoy their writing. Writers from Ukraine have received international literary awards. Among the most famous of these writers is Andrii Kurkov. His books appear in 37 languages and 65 countries around the world.

The new Ukrainian literature has developed with more freedom and has been influenced by literary movements from outside Ukraine, such as postmodernism and a variety of different genres. The types of themes that writers deal with have also changed. There is now more emphasis on social problems and the less pleasant side of everyday life. Contemporary writers also use a more varied range of language than ever before.

The new face of Ukrainian literature has attracted a huge number of readers. Youth literary clubs such as Litstage in Kyiv and Magnum Opus in Poltava give young readers the chance to meet regularly and discuss works by their favourite modern writers.





It's not just local book clubs that celebrate modern Ukrainian literature, though. For over ten years, the BBC has made the best Ukrainian literary works known to the general public through the BBC Book of the Year Awards.

There are also events such as the annual Lviv International Book Fair and Literature Festival. There, readers are not only offered the chance to meet and talk to their favourite writers from Ukraine and other countries but also learn things about the world of writing. This festival and other similar events show that modern Ukrainian literature is achieving the international recognition it deserves.

3 Read the text again and choose the correct way to complete each sentence.

- 1 The end of censorship in Ukraine resulted in
 - a the appearance of a lot of new writers.
 - b older writers losing their literary identity.
- 2 Andrii Kurkov is an example of a writer
 - a who has never won a literary award.
 - b whose works are read in different languages and countries around the world.
- 3 The writing style of contemporary Ukrainian writers
 - a is influenced by older writers from Ukraine.
 - b shows influences from across the world.
- 4 Youth literary clubs such as Litstage and Magnum Opus show that
 - a young people in Ukraine are becoming more interested in modern Ukrainian literature.
 - b more and more young people are interested in becoming writers.
- 5 The Lviv International Book Fair and Literature Festival
 - a has taken place for more than ten years.
 - b is an event where you can meet writers from Ukraine and abroad.

Vocabulary

4 Fill in: themes, recognition, censorship, independence, works, movement.

- 1 Postmodernism is a late 20th century that we see in literature, art and architecture.
- 2 It was difficult for writers and artists to express themselves freely during the years of
- 3 Andrii Kurkov is a Ukrainian writer who has gained international
- 4 After Ukraine gained its in 1991, a whole new generation of writers appeared.
- 5 The of many modern Ukrainian writers are translated into several different languages.
- 6 Social issues and everyday life are common in modern Ukrainian literature.

Speaking & Writing

5 Imagine you attended the Lviv International Book Fair and Literature Festival and heard a talk on contemporary Ukrainian literature. Use the information in the text to tell the class what you learned.

6 **ICT** Do some online research and complete the fact file about a contemporary Ukrainian writer. Use the information to write a short paragraph about the writer. Read your paragraph to the class.

Name:	
Date & place of birth:	
Education:	
Started writing in:	
Genre/Themes:	
Most popular works:	
Additional information:	